

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 02, 2003***

GREAT LAKES MARINE ALERT MESSAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Great Lakes Marine Alert Message (MAW) is an alphanumeric product alerting users of forecasted storm or hurricane force winds on any of the Great Lakes. This product is prepared by the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Cleveland, Ohio for the Great Lake waters located within the United States.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is issued on an as needed basis whenever storm or hurricane force winds are included in any portion of a Great Lakes Open Lakes Forecast (GLF). This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nations economy.

3. Audience:

The target audience for the product includes: large shippers, barge and tug boat operators; private maritime organizations; recreational mariners; national, state, and local emergency managers; military and government agencies; media; and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is made available in alphanumeric format and is described in NWS policy documents made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page email link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at Focus Group meetings, from Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the MAW may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21
Marine Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The MAW product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and contains information on the location of where storm or hurricane force winds are expected over the Great Lakes. Coordination between all the WFOs with forecast responsibilities on the Great Lakes is done to ensure the MAW is consistent and compatible with other forecast products.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated on an as needed basis when storm or hurricane force winds are forecast in any portion of a GLF. The MAW is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on Marine and Coastal product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

The following WWW Internet site is one location to access the MAW product:

<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/data/raw/fz/fzus61.kcle.maw.cle.txt>.

3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, area of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the NSH product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and also in 10-312 which are made available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.